

*"We are so thankful for  
your trust in our mission  
to end domestic violence."*

Rebecca A. Darr  
WINGS President & CEO



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



# National Purple Ribbon Award: Survivor of the Year – Sarah McClarey

Sarah McClarey fled domestic abuse with her two young sons in 2005 to WINGS Safe House. During her first Valentine's Day in the shelter, Sarah bought herself roses.

Now thriving, for the past 15 years she has raised funds to buy and deliver Valentine's bouquets to WINGS and other Chicago-area domestic violence shelters.

Called Operation Shelter Cupid, Sarah delivers over 150 bouquets and a heartfelt note.



## Sarah's letter to survivors:

*"...Although I don't know you personally, because of where you are living, I can guess you have been through some pretty hard times. I wonder if someone (or maybe many someones) made you feel as though you were pathetic, ugly, and worthless. It is important to understand that you were lied to..."*

***I hope this small gesture today is multiplied in your life...You are beautiful, you are loved, and you are not alone.***

*Happy Valentine's Day!"*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO



Dear WINGS Family,

We are immensely grateful for your support of WINGS! Your generosity and commitment are vital as the demand for our services and housing keep increasing. In 2022, the Illinois Domestic Violence Hotline received more than 37,000 requests for help, marking the fourth year in a row of unprecedented calls.

To respond to this need, this year our amazing staff, donors, and volunteers helped us achieve remarkable results:

- **Phenomenal sales at WINGS Resale - \$2,727,879.**
- **State legislative leaders who enabled many opportunities.** As a result, we were able to make several capital renovations to our Safe Houses to improve the conditions for survivors and staff.
- **New state-of-the-art counseling center to come.** Thanks to the Foglia Family and Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi for making this program expansion possible so adults and children may heal from the trauma of domestic violence.
- **National awards – WINGS is honored to receive 5 Purple Ribbon Awards** this fiscal year. These awards reflect many aspects of our agency, showing how WINGS excels across the board:
  - o Lifetime Achievement Award – Rita Canning
  - o Best New Service Launch – Survivor Lifeline
  - o Outstanding Thrift Store of the Year - WINGS Resale
  - o Annual Report of the Year
  - o Survivor of the Year – Sarah McClarey
- **Fifteen graduates**, including three males, were celebrated at our Celebration of Courage this year. Graduates shared inspiring messages and WINGS impact on their journey to freedom. Many improved their financial stability. Their resilience, courage, and success continue to inspire us.

Thanks to everyone who has given their time, talent, and treasure this year. We are so thankful for your trust in our mission to end domestic violence.

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Darr  
President & CEO



# WINGS IMPACT

## Hospital outreach



114 Bedside Consults  
893 Medical Staff Trained  
2,613 Counseling Hours

## A New Direction

Beverly – Morgan Park

Education  
Legal Advocacy  
Referrals



52 Served  
960 Hours of Service

## WINGS Community Based Services

**463 Served**

85% increase  
over last year

## Mentoring

Survivor Lifeline  
ALAS

1,272 Hours of  
Mentoring Services



## Extended Services

Pantry  
Gifts for Holidays  
School Supplies

\$12,583 Worth of  
Items Distributed



## counseling

3,005 Hours of  
Counseling



# Children and Family Services

492

children encouraged to develop positive, non-violent relationships

10,883

hours of children's services provided to develop healthy life skills

96%

of guardians attending parenting groups reported learning new skills

81%

of speaking-aged children could identify two actions to take to feel safe



92,960

Nights of shelter & safe housing

99%

of WINGS Safe House and Housing Program clients completing an exit survey did not return to their abuser



## HOUSING

COUNSELING

MENTORING

CASE MANAGEMENT

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

### Emergency Safe Houses

2 Safe Houses,  
One in Chicago  
One in Chicago Suburbs  
3 Extended Stay Units

327  
served

### Permanent Housing

8 Apartments  
2 Homes  
100 Rapid Rehousing Units  
• 55 Citywide  
• 45 Chicago Suburbs

302  
served

### Transitional Housing

3 Shared Living Homes  
23 Independent Apartments

127  
served

# CORPORATE DONORS



Katie De Runtz, AVP Wintrust  
Financial Corporation

## Jenner and Block

In 2000, Lynne Grayson, a partner at Jenner and Block, contacted Rebecca Darr to inquire about a service project to bring women lawyers together to support organizations raising up women. The Women Everywhere project was born.

Lynne ensured that Jenner and Block supported all of WINGS legal needs. Since this relationship began **23 years ago**, **Jenner and Block** has provided close to **\$1 million in pro bono legal services to WINGS**.

While Lynne has moved to a different firm, Jenner and Block continues to assist WINGS. Lynne remains a true friend to our agency.



WINGS was honored to be featured on a mural on Wintrust building along Interstate 90

## Wintrust

Wintrust and its network of local community banks have been very generous to WINGS, including sponsoring numerous events.

***"WINGS is relentless in its mission to end domestic violence. As a member of the WINGS Metro Associate Council, I have had the privilege of meeting many of WINGS staff and graduates.***

***It's truly inspiring to be part of a village of people who have an uncompromising drive to make a lasting difference at the individual level and at the community level,"*** Katie De Runtz, AVP Wintrust Financial Corporation.



Rebecca Darr, WINGS President & CEO  
with Lynne Grayson



Citi volunteers sorting donations  
at WINGS Logistics Center



# Citi Retail Services

For over 11 years, our friends at Citi Retail Services have provided generous grants, hosted drives for needed items and volunteered their time.

*"We love the work that WINGS does and are so glad we were able to donate again this year. We look forward to supporting your organization during our Global Community Days. Keep up the good work you are doing to help victims of domestic violence; it is so sorely needed," Mary Breier, VP and Public Affairs Officer, Citi Retail Services.*

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rebecca Darr, President/CEO	Terence Banich	The Honorable Kristal Rivers
Rita Canning, Chair Emeritus	Janet Boyle	Trisha Rooney
Ellaine Sambo-Reyther, Chair	Shannon Byrne	Jessica Scaggs
Matthew Baumann, Immediate Past President	Melissa Canning	Michael Sicher
Rebeca Huffman, Secretary	Renee Ford	Darla Swango
Nate Solomon, Former Secretary	Maudell Gaines	Elizabeth Tenner
William Shannon, Treasurer	April Graves	Jackie Tilton
John Sciacotta, Of Counsel	Karen Gray-Krehbiel	Yolande Wilson-Stubbs
Victoria Watkins, VP Advocacy	Terri Greeno	David Wojtonik
Debby Jackson, VP Board Development	Harmony Harrington	Jill Zweigbaum
Kenneth Gorman, VP Operations	Sandra Hirsh	
Jane Marcus, VP Personnel	Donald Houchins	
Kelly Miller, VP Philanthropy	Niyaz Kamookagath	
Dr. Algean Garner, VP Program	Dr. Mia Layne	
Sunitha Chamarti, VP Strategy	Carol Lundahl	
	Jessica McCarihan	
	Antonio Rivera	

# HONORARY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Greg and Anna Brown	Ronald and Christina Gidwitz	Richard and Peggy Notebaert
John and Rita Canning	Douglas and Ann Grissom	James and Ellen O'Connor
Michael and Elizabeth Cole	Francia Harrington	Larry and Corky Richman
Kent and Elizabeth Dauten	David Herro and Jay Franke	Glenn and Jackie Tilton
Merri Dee (In Memoriam)	Jack and Marty Higgins	Monsignor Kenneth Velo
Craig and Janet Duchossois	John Krehbiel and Karen Gray-Krehbiel	David and Marilyn Vitale
Rahm Emanuel and Amy Rule	Felicia Middlebrooks	Norm Winer and Wendy Rice
Vince and Pat Foglia		



# COUNCILS

WINGS is supported by many of Chicago's most influential citizens and philanthropists. These groups assist through advocacy, volunteering, fundraising, awareness, and more!

Suburban Leadership Council

Metro Leadership Council

Metro Associate Council

AND Leadership Council

North Shore Leadership Council - **New!**

WINGS is excited to announce the creation of the North Shore Leadership Council. Chairs Maria Shideler and Katherine Banich lead the group, which successfully organized the North Shore Ladies Luncheon in June.

Nashville Leadership - **New!**

May 2023 WINGS held an introductory event to spread awareness about domestic violence and WINGS solutions. A new Nashville Leadership Council is on the horizon which will focus on fundraising to create a domestic violence focused needs assessment for the city.



WINGS Board of Directors and Leadership Council Members at the Purple Tie Ball

Learn more about  
WINGS Board of  
Directors and  
Councils



Maria Shideler and Katherine Banich



From left: Shannon Byrne, Rebecca Darr, and Debby Jackson at the Nashville event



# WINGS Receives 5 Purple Ribbon Awards from National Organization



This fiscal year, WINGS received five national Purple Ribbon Awards from DomesticShelters.Org:

Fall 2022:

- **Outstanding New Service Launch – Survivor Lifeline**
- **Annual Report of the Year**
- **Lifetime Achievement Award – Rita Canning, WINGS Board Chair Emeritus**

Spring 2023:

- **Survivor of the Year – Sarah McClarey**  
*See inside cover to learn more*
- **Outstanding Thrift Store of the Year – WINGS Resale**  
*See page 14 to learn more*

To be considered, agencies complete applications in specific categories. The judging panel consists of reviewers who work in or with domestic violence agencies.

While all organizations receive a medallion and certificate, exemplary organizations receive an accompanying grant. Out of 125 Purple Ribbon winners, this Fall WINGS was **one of seven organizations selected** to receive a grant for the Survivor Lifeline program.

# Lifetime Achievement Award

## Rita Canning, Board Chair Emeritus

For more than 30 years, Rita poured her passion and leadership into WINGS growth. She helped WINGS open two Safe Houses and start community-based programming.

Under her leadership on WINGS Board of Directors, WINGS assets grew from \$600,000 to over \$23 million. These resources empowered WINGS to reach thousands of survivors.

View WINGS Award-Winning, Interactive Digital Annual Report



Rita Canning with Purple Ribbon Award



Rita, (fourth from left) at WINGS Metro Safe House Ribbon Cutting



Elizabeth, WINGS Survivor Lifeline Coordinator, poses with Purple Ribbon Award

## Best New Service Launch

### Survivor Lifeline

Survivor Lifeline matches compassionate survivor mentors with clients who are moving from domestic violence shelters into housing. This year the program served 62 clients with 647 hours of mentoring.

Clients are linked to resources, assisted with budgets, and supported in their career goals. This year 91% of Survivor Lifeline clients have maintained their housing over a year.



# WINGS EVENTS

Raised

**\$1,246,359**

toward WINGS housing  
programs and services  
for survivors.

## 22nd Annual Purple Tie Ball

Our Roaring 20's themed Purple Tie Ball was a great success and raised more than \$543,000. Special thanks to our event co-chairs Melissa Canning and Debby Jackson.



WINGS 2022 PTB David K. Hill Award Recipient. Michelle Cameron with her daughters Mary Jo Cameron and Karissa Cameron

## 19th Annual Sweet Home Chicago

Our family holiday brunch fundraiser was attended by 353 guests and raised over \$653,000!



Mrs. Claus, John Canning, Rita Canning, Santa (from left to right)

## The Main Event

World famous boxer, Christy Martin, shared her story about surviving domestic violence at The Main Event, a fundraiser that benefitted WINGS and The Network.



Christy Martin and Suzanne Le Mignot (from left to right)



## 2nd Annual North Shore Ladies Luncheon

Our garden party themed North Shore Ladies Luncheon raised over \$60,000 thanks to our event host committee and co-chairs, Maria Shideler and Renee Zipprich.



Maria Shideler and Renee Zipprich  
(from left to right)

## A New Direction Wine Run

This 5K around Wild Blossom Meadery raised funds towards WINGS – A New Direction programming in Beverly – Morgan Park.



WINGS - AND staff Ericka and Rita with Wild Blossom owner Greg Fischer and mixologist Lizzy Benner. (from left to right)

## Inverness Country Club Event

Many thanks to WINGS Board of Directors member Melissa Canning, and her husband Mike Canning, for hosting a wonderful event to raise awareness for WINGS in the Inverness Community!



Mike Canning and Melissa Canning  
(from left to right)

## TAN

The 14th Annual Golf Outing, hosted by Take Action Now - TAN, was another great success raising \$10,500.00 for WINGS!



Renee Gerami, Jane Wells, Barb Labellarte, Gina Hardy  
(from left to right)



# IN-KIND DONATIONS

**\$267,000** worth of product donated

**198** children received school supplies and new shoes

**44** families received coats and winter items

**230** children received Easter/Spring baskets

**2,957** gifts donated for the Holiday Store

**159** moms received Mother's Day gifts

**80** households received Thanksgiving turkeys and sides

*"I just want to thank all the kind sponsors that donate everything for the pantry for WINGS. It helps us out immensely... **It helps me save money to pay for daycare and gas.** Just getting back on our feet again it helps out so, so much. My four-year-old and I are very appreciative (even if she doesn't know it yet). **Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.**" Marissa\**

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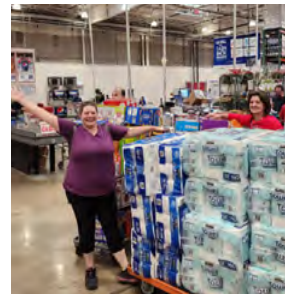
While picking up gifts at WINGS Holiday Store, one child's face filled with pure joy when she unexpectedly saw Santa.



Donated personal care items are organized for distribution to survivors.



Backpacks ready for families to pick up.



Tabitha, In-Kind Program and Donations Supervisor, and Shelley, Director of Annual Fund and Charitable Giving, stock up on toilet paper and paper towels as a result of a generous grant.





# VOLUNTEERS

## FEATURED VOLUNTEER Bonnie



*"I completed the 40-hour domestic violence training and became a safehouse volunteer... I've gotten to see some of the kids over the years: growing up, believing in themselves... and that is priceless."*

Bonnie

**2,524** volunteers gave their time and talents

**56,318** volunteer hours were donated – the equivalent of 27 full-time employees

**\$1,790,924** is the value of volunteer hours WINGS saved on expenses

## FEATURED VOLUNTEER Preeti



*"I came for the cause, but I stayed because of the people... It gave me a sense of belonging... I love that WINGS makes it easy to volunteer."*

Preeti



## Resale Items Sold

Clothing pieces – 153,749

Housewares – 161,710

Furniture – 4,894

# WINGS RESALE

## Wins National Award and Reports Highest Sales Ever

WINGS Resale had an amazing year!

- Won a 2023 national Purple Ribbon Award for **Outstanding Thrift Shop of the Year**.
- Recorded the **highest sales since the first store opened in 2000 - \$2,727,879!**

WINGS operates 3 Resale Stores in the Northwest Suburbs. We have a sister store in Chicago.

We have developed mutually beneficial supply chain relationships, including Vans and North Shore Exchange, who continually provide high quality merchandise.

Every donated item goes to a survivor, a store, or a recycling service.

Survivors shop for their own clothing and personal items through gift cards.

When clients move into housing, they can select furniture and housewares to be delivered. This year, **WINGS Resale provided \$39,674 worth of items to clients**.

**Thank you to our donors, customers, volunteers, and staff for making the stores outstanding!**



Store  
locations  
& hours



Displays at WINGS Resale Stores



WINGS Transportation Crew

# FINANCIALS

## Consolidated Statement of Activities for the Year Ended June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Revenues (unrestricted)</b>		
Contributions (cash and in-kind)	2,154,153	3,127,290
Special Events (net of direct costs)	1,246,359	1,518,793
Resale Income (net of direct expenses)	834,642	658,441
Government Contracts	6,412,030	3,690,345
Other	638,952	989,273
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 11,286,136</b>	<b>\$ 9,984,142</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Program		
Safe House	2,263,095	1,852,147
Safe House at WINGS Metro	2,355,444	2,568,566
Transitional Living	1,556,307	1,649,576
Community Based Services	908,515	567,417
Permanent Supportive Housing	1,135,131	864,718
Administrative	1,287,784	1,277,519
Development	926,540	936,283
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 10,432,816</b>	<b>\$ 9,716,226</b>
<b>Surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>\$ 853,320</b>	<b>\$ 267,916</b>

WINGS financial statements were audited by Plante & Moran, PLLC.

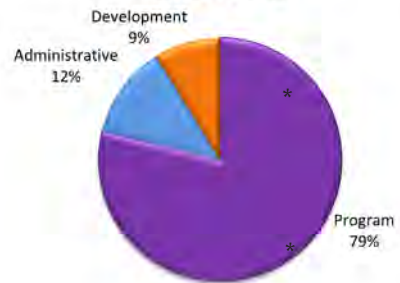
Consolidation includes WINGS Program, Inc. and WINGS Metro LLC entities.

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## Consolidated Statement of Financial Position as of June 30, 2023

	2023	2022
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets	6,643,313	5,318,215
Fixed Assets	12,021,081	12,332,628
Other Assets (endowment investments, new market tax credit loan)	7,390,299	4,362,817
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 26,054,693</b>	<b>\$ 22,013,660</b>
<b>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current Liabilities	1,885,470	1,520,276
Long-Term Liabilities	5,684,233	3,282,725
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 7,569,703</b>	<b>\$ 4,803,001</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
Net Assets without Donor Restrictions		
Undesignated	9,274,496	8,727,083
Board Designated Reserve	1,421,069	1,100,797
Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	7,789,425	7,382,779
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 18,484,990</b>	<b>\$ 17,210,659</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 26,054,693</b>	<b>\$ 22,013,660</b>

## FY23 Consolidated Expense Allocation





# GET INVOLVED

## ATTEND EVENTS

WINGS events offer corporate or individual sponsorships.

Purchase tickets for an amazing experience.

## BECOME A FINANCIAL SUPPORTER

Donations of any amount are crucial to continuing WINGS high quality services.

In addition to traditional donations, WINGS can also accept donor-advised funds, stocks and securities, IRA distributions, and cryptocurrency.

**Join WINGS Butterfly Club –**  
Give a monthly gift and have an ongoing impact.

## VOLUNTEER

From sorting donations to helping at events (and more!), you can make an impact.

## DONATE TO OUR RESALE STORES

Donate your gently used clothing, housewares, accessories, and furniture.

Clients shop for items and proceeds benefit our mission to end domestic violence.

## IN-KIND PROGRAM DONATIONS

Help meet basic needs by donating personal care items, cleaning supplies, holiday gifts and more.

## GET SOCIAL

Follow us on social media, host a drive, or create and share your own fundraising webpage.



Reach out and learn more

# Photo Gallery

June 2023  
WINGS  
Main Office  
celebrated  
our 10th year  
anniversary  
with bubbles  
and popsicles.



WINGS staff celebrate breaking ground on the new Foglia Family Resource Center: a new, state-of-the-art counseling center for survivors of domestic violence.



Beth, WINGS Senior Manager of Children's Services, poses with a pony from Mane in Heaven at the Annual Picnic for clients. The picnic features a bounce house, tie dye, therapy ponies, and more.



WINGS Metro Safe House staff prepared a hot breakfast for children's first day of school along with a personalized note for each child.



WINGS Suburban Safe House celebrated Holi, the festival of colors, with color play and a traditional Indian dinner.





## Mission

The mission of WINGS Program, Inc. is to provide housing, integrated services, education and advocacy to end domestic violence.

## Vision

WINGS Program, Inc. will help create a society in which every domestic violence survivor has a voice and the resources to break the cycle of domestic violence.

## Diversity and Inclusion

### Our Foundation for Ending Domestic Violence

WINGS Program, Inc. understands that Diversity and Inclusion are a vital part of our mission. Together we will continue to foster an inclusive culture that supports, values, connects and honors the diverse voices and needs of our employees, clients, board and volunteers, donors and customers, and partners.

## Leadership Team

Rebecca Darr,  
President/Chief Executive Officer

Denise Urban,  
Executive Vice President/  
Chief Financial Officer

David Kahan,  
Chief Operating Officer

La Tonya Walker,  
Chief Program Officer

WINGS Program, Inc.

P.O. Box 29309  
Chicago, IL 60629

P.O. Box 95615  
Palatine, IL 60095

Phone: 847-519-7820

24-Hour Crisis Line: 847-221-5680

[www.wingsprogram.com](http://www.wingsprogram.com)

